

Non-State and Subnational Action Guidance

Guidance for integrating the impact of non-state and subnational mitigation actions into national greenhouse gas projections, targets and planning

July 2018

How to use the results for decision-making and planning

10. REPORTING RESULTS

Reporting the results, methodology, and assumptions used is important to ensure the impact assessment is transparent and gives decision-makers and stakeholders the information they need to properly interpret the results. This chapter presents a list of information that is recommended to be reported based on the steps in previous chapters.

Checklist of key recommendations

- Report information about the assessment process and the non-state and subnational impacts (including the information listed in Section 10.1)

10.1 Recommended information to report

It is important that users carefully document and report the relevant data, analysis methods, all assumptions and results.

The detail and breadth of reporting should depend on the objectives and resources available to users carrying out the assessment. More complex and comprehensive assessments will thus require more reporting. Throughout the different chapters, this guidance has provided explanation on which information users should be collecting. The recommended information to report is listed below.

General information

- The person(s)/organisation(s) that did the assessment
- The date of the assessment
- Whether the assessment is an update of a previous assessment, and if so, links to any previous assessments

Chapter 2: Objectives

- The objective(s) and intended audience(s) of the assessment

Chapter 3: Key concepts, steps and assessment principles

- Whether the analysis is a top-down integration, bottom-up aggregation, or a combination

Chapter 4: Define assessment boundary

- Which actor groups are included in the assessment
- Which action types are included in the assessment
- Which sector(s) and subsector(s) are included in the assessment
- Which greenhouse gases are included in the assessment
- Which types of indirect GHG emissions are included in the assessment

Chapter 5: Create a list of all relevant non-state and subnational actions

- A list of all relevant non-state and subnational actions identified, and relevant data needed for further analysis (dependent on the objectives of the assessment)
- The method used for data collection

Chapter 6: Select non-state and subnational actions for inclusion in analysis

- Which non-state and subnational actions from the list in Chapter 5 were found to be suitable for further inclusion into the assessment
- The likelihood for non-state and subnational action targets to be achieved
- How aggregated collaborative actions were distributed to the country while ensuring that the collaborative action is not already covered by an individual non-state and subnational action
- The criteria and assumptions used to assess suitability and likelihood of each non-state and subnational action

Chapter 7: List relevant national climate mitigation policies and actions

- A list of relevant national climate mitigation policies and actions that relate to the objectives of the assessment
- All data sources used to compile the data

Chapter 8: Convert non-state and subnational actions and national policies to suitable metrics

- Which metrics were used for non-state and subnational actions and national policies
- For each of the non-state and subnational actions, whether actions were included into existing models/tools (and which ones) and/or whether emission reduction potentials were calculated (and the approach used for calculating those)

Chapter 9: Assess overlaps, add impacts and compare ambition

- The approach to determine overlaps between various non-state and subnational actions in the same sector, across sectors and between non-state/subnational actions and national policies to avoid double counting
- All assumptions made
- The results from the overlap analysis
- Combined projected impact of non-state/subnational action (at the metric and/or emission reduction level)

10.2 Additional information to report, if relevant

Other information, depending on the objective of the analysis, may include:

- The impact of non-state and subnational action on the national/sectoral emission pathway (based on current policy scenarios)
- The impact of non-state and subnational action on the national/sectoral emission pathway required under the NDC
- The emissions gap between the combined impact of non-state/subnational action and the NDC
- Additional CO₂e savings potential of non-state/subnational action
- Any limitations of the analysis
- Any challenges faced during the assessment
- Other relevant information

Table 10.1 provides an example which can serve as a template for users for documentation on the different steps outlined in this guidance. The template is designed for the most comprehensive assessment users might want to conduct. Users can remove the rows which are not applicable to their assessment and tailor the template to their specific country context.

Table 10.1: Template to report assessment results

Example Assessment	
Objective(s)	
Assessment boundary	
Method for data collection	
Link to list of retained non-state and subnational action	
Link to list of relevant national policies	
Which common metrics were chosen	
Approach to determine overlaps	
Combined projected impact of non-state/subnational action	
Impact on national/sectoral emission pathway (current policy scenario)	
Impact on national/sectoral emission pathway required under the NDC	
Emissions gap between combined impact of non-state/subnational action and NDC	
Additional CO ₂ e savings potential of non-state/subnational action	

11. USE RESULTS FOR DECISION-MAKING AND PLANNING

This chapter discusses how assessment results may be interpreted, linking those back to the objectives set in Chapter 2. In addition, the specific use for decision-making will likely depend on the results obtained in Chapters 8 and 9.

Users should consider both the objectives and assessment results to inform decision-making. For example, if non-state and subnational mitigation actions are found to be less ambitious than existing national climate mitigation targets, and the objective was to understand the potential impact of non-state and subnational mitigation action nationally, users could determine the gap in ambition level, revise policy design and/or engage with relevant non-state and subnational actors. In contrast, if non-state and subnational action targets are found to be more ambitious, the assessment could support an upward revision in national mitigation targets. Table 11.1 illustrates how results could be used for various objectives identified in Chapter 2.

Table 11.1: Examples of how to use results for decision-making

Assessment objective	Options for using results
Understand the landscape of non-state and subnational effort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather insights into the types of actions being undertaken, type of actors that are involved • Determine opportunities for engagement with non-state and/or subnational actors, for e.g., engage with actors in those sectors where there is comparatively low impact from their actions or in sectors that are key for NDC implementation • Promote new action by these actors
Determine the combined expected impact of all non-state and subnational actions in a country/sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Further encourage or strengthen such actions • Better understand collective impact of specific types of actions or actors
Determine the contribution of non-state and subnational action towards achieving national/sectoral climate change target or NDC targets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better understand how non-state and subnational action is supporting national/sectoral climate change plans or the NDC • Use to inform future policy design • Inform possible revision of national/sectoral climate policy targets • Consider inclusion into future NDC cycle • Enhance the credibility of national climate mitigation targets
Determine the level of national/sectoral action needed to achieve the NDC target while taking into account the contribution of subnational and non-state action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the gap between the impact of subnational and non-state action and the national/sectoral targets • Inform strategies and initiatives to bridge the gap, e.g., where regulation and/or incentive setting could yield best results based on an analysis of leading vs lagging sectors (and non-state actors/subnational actors) • Incorporate subnational and non-state actions into national GHG inventories to ensure impacts are measured and recognised at the national level

<p>Understand the potential of non-state and subnational action to enable the country or sector to achieve a more ambitious target</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjust and revise national/sectoral climate change targets upwards • Identify leading sectors (and non-state actors/ subnational actors) • Identify lagging sectors (and non-state actors/ subnational actors) • Engage with non-state and subnational actors, for example, with a view to design targeted policy interventions • Recommend revising sectoral climate change targets
<p>Improve emissions projections or inform realistic economy/sector-wide emissions reduction target(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform climate change target based on enhanced projections • Include into future NDC cycle • Enhance (inter)national credibility of targets
<p>Determine how non-state and subnational action impacts the ambition set out in specific policies</p>	<p>If non-state and subnational action was found to be more ambitious, users could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine at what point in time non-state and subnational action is expected to go beyond the ambition set out in a policy instrument • Determine which sectors contribute most to the rise in ambition • Revise sectoral climate change targets <p>If non-state and subnational action was found to be less ambitious, the user could:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Determine gap in ambition level • Recommend revising policy design • Engage with relevant non-state and subnational actors

In addition, it will be important that users share the results of their assessment with the relevant stakeholders to ensure that they can be integrated into decision-making. This does not have to include the release of disaggregated data that could be linked to individual actors, but could be organised by sectors or some other classification. Which steps to take to ensure this is being done will be dependent on who is carrying out the assessment and for which purpose. One option to increase the likelihood that the results reach the right people is to involve the targeted audience from the very beginning of the assessment.

Users should also bear in mind that policymakers may be hesitant to revise climate mitigation targets because often they can only partly control non-state and subnational action. However, in some cases the commitments may already be robust enough to include and in future it is likely that the robustness of the data used and therefore the expected impact will improve. Through incentive settings and other regulatory means, policymakers may have significant influence on non-state and subnational actors, or the other way around and which should be seen as an opportunity rather than a risk.

At the same time, it is important to underline that the integration of non-state and subnational action should not be used by policymakers to scale back on government-led action. Rather, the positive

reinforcing relationship between non-state/subnational and national actions should be further emphasised. Users should ensure policies developed at the national level incentivise and are complementary to subnational, non-state policies rather than make them moot. The opportunities linked to tapping into these potentials, e.g., more competitive economies, signalling transformation and giving positive inputs on the international stage, should be taken into account when considering how to use the results of the assessment.